

birders than the Eastern UP; thus, Michigan's county listers, and anyone else with a sense of adventure, will appreciate the guide's inclusion of 33 sites west of Luce and Mackinac counties. One of the lesser-known birding sites listed is the Garden Peninsula, which projects south into Lake Michigan towards Wisconsin's Door Peninsula. On Garden Peninsula, the State Forest campground at Portage Bay is an excellent spot for both passerines and shorebirds in the fall; however, this is not mentioned in the site description, illustrating that there are many birding spots yet to be discovered in the UP, especially the western portion. I look forward to making another Labor Day weekend trip there soon, and I'll be sure that my itinerary includes two other places described for that area—the Mead Plantation and the Nahma Marsh Trail. With the Stonington Peninsula being so close to the Garden Peninsula, I'll have to visit there as well. The guide makes Peninsula Point Park sound like an excellent migrant trap and, considering how little old-growth forest is left in the state, the hemlock stand at Squaw Creek also sounds intriguing.

At 660 pages long, this is a very thick birding guide, and it can be difficult to make it lie open. The back cover, however, extends an additional 4.5 inches for use as a bookmark. Inside the back cover is a handy state map denoting the state's birding regions and selected birding sites. On the map, sites are labeled according to the page numbers where their descriptions are located. The facing page has a map key, which lists all the birding sites and their page numbers for each of the state's six regions.

I saw only a few errors in this guide. One pertained to a birding site near where I live in Genesee County (in the Southeastern LP); the site was mislabeled as being presented on page 42 and occurring in adjoining Livingston County. After checking the text, however, I found that there was no birding site in Livingston County, and page 42 actually describes the site labeled as occurring on page 43—Gratiot-Saginaw State Game Area, located about thirty miles to the northwest of Livingston County. Clare County is misspelled on the state map on the inside back cover. I also noticed that there are two different area codes listed in the site description for Metro Beach

Metropark's phone number. Noted in the guide's introduction is a request to send any comments and corrections to ABA's website for use in future editions of the guide.

In conclusion, all Michigan birders, and anyone else planning a birding trip to that state, should own a copy of *A Birder's Guide to Michigan*. There is no other guide like it for the state, and its detail and completeness are impressive. Thanks to Chartier and Ziarno for providing such a useful tool to promote more complete birding coverage of Michigan and for giving out-of-state birders such a user-friendly guide for discovering all that Michigan has to offer.—JEFF A. BUECKING, Michigan Rare Birds Committee, 1225 Dauner Rd., Fenton, Michigan; e-mail: jbuecking@juno.com

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF THE GAMBIA AND SENEGAL. By Clive Barlow and Tim Wacher. Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut. 2006: 400 pp., 48 color plates. ISBN: 0-300-11574-1. \$40.00 (paper).—This comprehensive guide has been very popular with birders for its inclusion of many tropical African birds. It was first published in 1997 in the United Kingdom by Christopher Helm, then reprinted with amendments in 1999, and now it has been released again in paperback by Yale University. It is the first field guide to the birds of Gambia and Senegal, and includes other areas of West Africa popular with birders from around the world.

Clive Barlow has lived in the Gambia area since 1985, and has become very familiar with the region's bird fauna. He presently runs birdwatching safaris and is very active with the conservation of Gambian birds through efforts in the Kiang West National Park and Tanji Bird Reserve conservation areas. Tim Wacher, a mammalian ecologist, resided in Gambia for five years, where he assembled a database of bird records from which came most of the distributional information for this book.

This 400-page guide provides full accounts of more than 600 bird species and depicts nearly all of them in the 48 color plates clustered at the forefront of this attractive volume. The end-boards depict maps of both Senegal

and Gambia, and the nine-page introduction provides short, but useful, discussions on the region's geography, climate, vegetation, and major habitats. The habitat descriptions include marine, coastal, estuarine, mangrove, freshwater riverbank, and other wetland habitats, as well as farmlands and villages, hotel gardens, Guinea savanna, Sudan savanna, and dry Sahel of northern Senegal. The habitat section is followed by a short section on the Sejegambian avifauna, which boasts over 660 species, about a third of which are migrants from the Palearctic region. Additionally, there are descriptions and locator maps of the protected areas in Gambia and Senegal, a short discussion that will aid the reader in using this book, and illustrations of avian plumage topography that should be useful in understanding the keys and descriptions throughout the text.

High-quality plates are an important feature in any field guide, and the present volume meets that criterion nicely. The 48 plates, however, provide rather small images, which reduces the size of key characteristics used for identification. The plates also lack arrows pointing out key identification characteristics. Nonetheless, they are of excellent quality and will prove highly useful for anyone visiting Gambia and Senegal or surrounding areas.

Each species account includes the species' common and scientific names, relevant plate numbers, and a comprehensive section on identification. Comments on similar or confusing species are followed by remarks on flight characteristics, habits, voice, status and distribution, and reproduction, as well as when migrant species typically appear. Occasional vignettes illustrate such things as the differences in the nests of weaver birds, characteristic patterns of gull flights, and aerial song-flight displays among *Cisticola* species. Most field guides provide range maps for each species, but this guide provides none. This omission may be due to the fact that nearly one-third of the species are migratory, but range maps would have been very useful for resident species. Following the species accounts, this guide provides a listing of three conservation organizations and their membership information, a bibliography of cited references, and an index of English and scientific names that will allow those familiar with the

region's avifauna to easily locate species accounts and plates.

Overall, the authors certainly should be commended for producing such a compact and badly needed field guide for Gambia and Senegal. I found it reasonably priced and a welcome resource for those planning to visit the area and enjoy its diversity and abundance of resident and migratory species.—HARLAN D. WALLEY, Department of Biology, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb; e-mail: hdw@niu.edu

BIRDS OF TROPICAL AMERICA: A WATCHER'S INTRODUCTION TO BEHAVIOR, BREEDING, AND DIVERSITY. By Steven Hilty. University of Texas Press, Austin. 2005: 312 pp., 12 black-and-white illustrations. ISBN: 0-292-70673-1. \$19.95 (paper).—This title was originally published by Chapters Publishing of Shelburne, Vermont, as part of their *The Curious Naturalist* series, and then it was reprinted in 2005 by the University of Texas Press with an updated suggested reading list and epilogue. After being out of print for several years, this particularly well-written book is finally back in print and readily available to interested readers.

Steven Hilty discusses issues of tropical ornithology in a readable and engaging manner. He has organized the book in a series of twenty stand-alone essays, each of which focuses on a theme related to Neotropical birds. The essays are as varied as tropical habitats and the birds they support. Not only do they educate and entertain the reader, they provide some insight as to why tropical habitats and birds are so different from those of northern latitudes. The text is enhanced by black-and-white illustrations of tropical birds in their habitats.

Initial chapters cover avian community structure and diversity of Neotropical rain forests, biogeography of the Amazon River basin, and how the most recent Ice Age affected bird distribution, migration, and mixed-species flocks. Subsequent essays cover ant swarms and the bird species that follow them; avian coloration; fruit, frugivory, and avian dispersal of seeds; displays performed by manakins and cotingas; hummingbird forag-